

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 have been cancelled without prejudice, and claims 26-46 have been added. No new matter has been added by virtue of the new claims. For instance, support for the new claims appears e.g. at page 4, lines 20-27; page 5, lines 5-13; and the original claims of the application.

Claims 1-5, 10-12 and 15-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 over Miyake et al. (JP 11-109632).

Claims 1-5, 7-8, 10-12 and 15-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 over Fujishima et al. (EP 982628).

Claims 1-5, 7-8, 10-12 and 15-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 over Okino et al. (U.S. Patent 6,303,266).

Claims 1-12 and 15-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 over Uetani et al. (US 2001/0039080).

For the sake of brevity, the several rejections are addressed in combination. The rejections are traversed.

The cited documents, whether considered alone or in combination fail to teach or suggest Applicants' claimed invention.

More particularly, Applicants' independent claims 26 and 37 (the only pending independent claims) read as follows:

Claim 26. A photoresist composition that comprises:

- (a) a photoacid generator compound; and
- (b) a polymer that comprises (i) a hydroxyadamantyl moiety, (ii) a photoacid-labile moiety, and (iii) at least two distinct polymerized norbornene repeat units.

Claim 37. A photoresist composition that comprises:

- (a) a photoacid generator compound; and
- (b) a polymer that comprises a hydroxyadamantyl moiety and at least two distinct repeat units that each have photoacid-labile groups.

The cited documents fail to disclose such polymers or photoresists as recited in those photoresists. As discussed at page 5 of the present application, the photoresists of claims 26 and 35 are preferred aspects of Applicants' invention.

In view thereof, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are requested.

It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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